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LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration issued on 21 November 1996 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the elections in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John H. F. CAMPBELL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration issued on 21 November 1996 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the elections in Abkhazia, Georgia

The European Union (EU) is deeply concerned at the intention of the Abkhaz side to hold parliamentary elections on 23 November 1996. The Union considers that such elections should only take place in the framework of a comprehensive political settlement that would include the determination through negotiations of the political status of Abkhazia, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, and with the guaranteed possibility of full participation of all refugees and displaced persons. EU fully supports the statement of the President of the Security Council that the conditions necessary for the holding of such elections are not present at this time.

EU calls on the Abkhaz side to cancel these elections and urges both sides to refrain from any action that could heighten tension in the region and to resume discussions towards a comprehensive political settlement.